

Brazile on the importance of passing this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Roll Call, July 20, 2010]

CONGRESS CAN EXPEDITE THE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

(By Donna Brazile and Ed Gillespie)

For most Americans, the morning after a presidential election has been decided represents a moment of relief. Relief that months of campaign commercials, debates and a seemingly endless stream of canvassers knocking on their doors and phoning interrupting their dinners are finally over—relief at the end of a long and exhausting process.

However, for the election winner's staff, that morning is the official beginning of a stressful and complicated process that can make or break the new president's first two years in office.

Having worked on presidential transitions, we both know the pressures facing transition staff. There are only 11 or 12 weeks between Election Day and the inauguration, too short a period to prepare for the host of challenges facing incoming administrations. This is especially true in our post-9/11 security environment and in times of economic uncertainty, which demand a seamless transfer of power and leave us no room for a gap in national leadership.

That is why, in recent elections, candidates have begun planning their transitions informally before winning election. While these efforts are almost never spoken of out of fear they will be derided as presumptuous, they have become as important to the process of transferring power as the formal transition following Election Day.

To their credit, both President Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) engaged in transition planning before the election was held in 2008. President George W. Bush also deserves praise for making a smooth transition out of office a high priority during the final months of his term. None of these steps was mandated by law, and all pre-election transition efforts by candidates had to be funded privately.

It was fortunate that, in the first transfer of power between parties after 9/11, with two ongoing wars and the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, both major candidates and the White House took it upon themselves to ensure one of the smoothest transitions in modern history. But we should not simply leave something so important to fortune.

Sens. Ted Kaufman (D-Del.) and George Voinovich (R-Ohio) have introduced the Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act. This bipartisan legislation would extend to both parties' nominees some of the government services (i.e., office space, secure computer systems) currently provided to presidents-elect for their transition planning several weeks before Election Day. It also authorizes funding for sitting presidents to help plan for a responsible transfer out of office and recommends the Bush administration's Presidential Transition Coordinating Council as a model.

This will go a long way toward removing the stigma of presumptuousness that discourages early transition planning. We now know that in 2008 the Obama and McCain campaigns were poised to make a joint statement acknowledging that both were engaging in pre-election transition planning as an act of responsibility. However, at the last minute the issue became politicized and neither campaign wanted to risk being accused of "measuring the drapes" in the White House.

This political calculus is understandable but dangerous in today's world. The Kaufman-Voinovich bill was written in consultation with veterans of past transitions. Its introduction follows on the heels of a landmark report by the nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service as well as academic articles by presidential scholars Martha Joynt Kumar, Terry Sullivan and others analyzing the successes and shortcomings of recent transitions. The Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act would provide nominees with office space, computer services and information about previous transitions. It would not pay transition staff salaries or provide for the hiring of outside consultants. For those expenses and others not covered by the bill, it would allow candidates to open transition accounts to which they could raise money or transfer funds from their campaign chests.

For those of us who have worked on presidential transitions, this bipartisan effort by two outgoing Senators in a non-presidential election year is long overdue. Congress should take advantage of this opportunity to implement the changes proposed by this bill to ensure more responsible, more secure and more seamless transfers of power in the future.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3839, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3839) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3839) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3839

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration", approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111-214 (124 Stat. 2346), is amended by striking "September 30, 2010" each place it appears and inserting "January 31, 2011".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on September 29, 2010.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 644, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 644) designating the week of October 10, 2010, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on a resolution I submitted today with Senators CRAPO and CARDIN to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week and honor the extraordinary National Wildlife Refuge System. I am pleased that so many of my colleagues have joined me to cosponsor this resolution.

President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Florida's Pelican Island in 1903. He was a renowned naturalist, an avid hunter, and is considered to be one of the greatest conservation leaders in American history.

Roosevelt was spurred to action after witnessing a dramatic decline in bird and animal populations across the country due to unregulated and unsustainable hunting. A sportsman himself, Roosevelt saw a great need to conserve our nation's natural resources not only for the benefit of his generation but for future generations as well.

President Roosevelt set out this basic principle when he said:

I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land. But I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.

He was a man of action. Over the course of Presidency, Roosevelt would establish more than 50 Federal bird reserves which would become the foundation of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Today, the Refuge System has grown to more than 150 million acres, 552 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts. These lands are truly American treasures and important parts of our natural heritage.

The Refuge System is a magnificent network of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife conservation. It is exceptionally diverse, encompassing every kind of ecosystem in the United States, including forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, tundras, and remote islands.

National wildlife refuges are critical to the broad goals of wildlife conservation to both keep common species common and to protect and restore imperiled species. Refuges do this well. They are home to an incredible amount of biodiversity, including over 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and